



Rocky Flats Cold War Museum

August 31, 2006

Mr. Frazier Lockhart
United States Department of Energy
12101 Airport Way, Unit A
Broomfield, CO 80021-2583

RE: Proposed Final Remedy for Rocky Flats

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

The board of directors of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum respectfully submits the following comments on the proposed final remedy for the Rocky Flats Site. These comments do not directly address the proposed technical remedies or strategies themselves, but rather are limited to the future public educational role the RFCWM would like to play in cooperatively helping the DOE with its long-term stewardship obligations at the site. The museum board will limit its input regarding the specific technical issues, including proposed and implemented remedies, to those items relating to future monitoring and public outreach strategies that relate directly to the museum's mission to "document the historical, environmental, and scientific legacy of Rocky Flats." With regard to the specific technical remedies in the proposed plan, the RFCWM will defer to the recommendations put forth by the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, since we are a participating organization in that entity.

Museums and Interpretive Centers as Part of the "Proposed Remedy"

The RFCWM proposes that DOE help fund and develop the museum as an "interpretive center" that becomes an integral part of the proposed remedy itself. What is envisioned is something similar to what is in place at the Weldon Spring, Missouri site (visitor center), the Hanford Reach site ("Gateway to the Hanford Reach National Monument") or the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas (with respect to informing about the Nevada Test Site), or what is being considered for the Mound site in Ohio. DOE would help fund the initial construction of a building on the museum's donated property near the old West Gate entry to the Rocky Flats site. The RFCWM will raise the additional money needed for the building and other planned outdoor and indoor interpretive elements as part of a public/private capital campaign. In the process, the RFCWM would work cooperatively with DOE and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to develop thematic interpretive displays and exhibits that document:

- the pre-history and period of early settlement and ranching at the site
- the natural and geological history and physical characteristics of the site
- the development of the Rocky Flats plant and its history of weapons production in the context of the Cold War; and

ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-006063

1/2

Mr. Frazier Lockhart
August 31, 2006
Page 2

- the story of clean-up and related remedial strategies and monitoring efforts designed to protect the long-term health and environment of the area. This would involve specific interpretive displays explaining the scientific and technical aspects of the on-site remedies, including educational programs and tours designed to help the public understand how they were developed, implemented, and monitored.

In a sense, the RFCWM would provide an important "access control" point at the southwest portion of the site near Highway 93. A proposed USF&WS trailhead could be located at or adjacent to the museum site (a perfect location for placement of the plaque unveiled at the Congressional tour commemorating the closure and clean-up of the site hosted by DOE last winter). The RFCWM will work cooperatively with DOE & USF&WS staff in these stewardship efforts, including the possibility of cross-training of employees for on-site tours and educational programs about Rocky Flats (similar to what is done at Weldon Spring, Missouri).

In summary, the RFCWM does not wish to supplant DOE's technical or scientific role in long-term stewardship at the site, but rather to augment and enhance the public informational and educational aspects of these future obligations, as appropriate for a museum or visitor center entity. We look forward to working with the DOE and other interested parties in fulfillment of this vision.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed final remedy for the Rocky Flats site. We appreciate your interest in our efforts to develop a museum or visitor center reflective of the national and international significance of Rocky Flats and its unique history.

Sincerely,



Kim Grant
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